by Government to explore the areas of trade with South Africa; and

(b) what results have been achieved, stating the trade agreements, if any, signed by Government with South African Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) As soon as the embargo on the trade with South Africa was lifted last year, the Indian Govem-ment industry and trade took immediate initiatives for expension of the bilateral trade. Studies were commissioned to identify possible areas of economic cooperation, Air India introduced a direct air service diplomatic and counsellor relations were established. Indian industry and. trade exchanged a series of delegations. As a result of these developments I here has been a quantum jump in India's trade with South Africa from Rs. 4.93 crores in 1992-93 to Rs. 181.16 crores in 1993-94. Necessary steps are also being taken to formally sign a Trade Agreement with the Government of the Republic of South Africa. An exclusive Indian Exhibition is being held at Johannesburg. South Africa next month to create better awareness about a wide ran*gs* of Indian manufacturers.

Committee to examine excise duty concession

723. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBTIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

fa) whether it is a fact that Gov ernment had constituted a commit tee to examine the passing of Ex cise Duty concessions given in the Budget to the people by the manu facturers;

(b) if so the details of the com mittee so constituted and whether the committee has submitted the report and if so, the salient features of the report and the action taken by Government thereon;

(c) the names of the manufactur ers who have not yet passed the Excise Duty concessions to the con sumers and the action taken against them;

(d) whether there have been cases v here manufacturers have not paid any Excise Duty but have charged the Excise Duty by way of increasing the rates of their products; and

(e) if so, the details of such manufacturers and the action Government propose to take/have taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue has stated that, the Central Board of Excise and Customs has not setup any Committee to examine the massing of Excise Duty concessions given in the Budget 1994-95, to the people *by* the manufacturers.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Change in procedure for issne of ration cards

724 SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI; Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to change the procedure for the issue of ration cards so as to prevent foreign nationals, specially Bangladeshi infiltrators', in getting such cards easily; and

(b) if net the details of the measures taken proposed to *be* taken to -orevent illegal migrants from Bangladesh--getting ration-cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUP-PLIES, CONSUMER- AFFAIRS AND i PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Operational responsibility for implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country rests with the State Governments and U.T. Administrations. Decisions regarding opening of Fair Price Shops, eligibility criteria for issue of ration cards to bonafide consumers and operation procedures and regulatory measures are taken by the State Governments and U.T. Administrations. Bonafide residents of a State are generally issued ration cards for getting access to PDS. The Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has reported that bonafide residents fulfilling' requirements laid down under the Delhi Specified Articles (Regulation of Distribution) Order 1981 are issued ration cards. Ration card is not intended to be linked to my other benefit or confer any en-

tlement other than access to PDS. I

Assessment regarding working of Snper Bazar

725. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN; Will the Min ster of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DIS fJIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the working of the Super Bazar recently;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and steps taken thereon; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on various projects during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUP-PLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND. PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMA1UDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Regular assessment and review of the functioning of Super Bazar is done by the Government periodically In case of any shortcoming or irregularity coming to notice the Super Bazar is advised to take immediate remedial measures and sub-mit compliance report.

(c) Super Bazar has incurred ex. penditure of Rs. 87.71 lakhs, Rs-98.03 lakhs and Rs. 103.40 lakhs during the years 1991-92 1992-93 and 1993-94 on various projects such as setting up of Departmental Stores, Automatic packing unit, Computerisation Renovation of branches etc.

Prices of essential comodities in Super Bazar

733. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA A.BHINANDAN JAIN- Will the Min-ister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSU-MER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DIS-DIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of the rise in the prices of essential com-modities in the Super Bazar in com-tasrison to the rates of 1990; and

(b) what are the reasons for this rise in prices and what steps/measures are being taken by Government to control the prices of the essential commodities in the Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUP-PLIES CONSUMER. AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) As per details in statement (See below)

(b) All the essential items are procured from manufacturers/open market. Hence the selling' price has a direct bearing on the procurement cost. The margin of profit earned by the Super Bazar on all such items has almost been static